

**In the claims:**

1-8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 &, that functions as an inhibitor of human mast cell tryptase.

10-15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & that has been genetically or chemically fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.

17. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & that is bound to a support, such as a resin.

18-44. (canceled).

45. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & that inhibits tryptase with a  $K_i$  of less than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  M, preferably less than  $2 \times 10^{-8}$  M, most preferably less than  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  M.

46. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & that inhibits catalytic tryptase activity.

47. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & which inhibits mast cell tryptase, ~~preferably human mast cell tryptase.~~

48. (currently amended): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 52 & that is derived from a tick.

49. (previously presented): A recombinant protein or protein fragment according to claim 48 that is derived from the tick *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*.

50. (currently amended): An anti-tryptase agent comprising a recombinant protein or protein

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fragment according to claim 52 8.

51. (canceled).

52. (previously presented): A recombinant protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or a protein fragment thereof that inhibits tryptase with a  $K_i$  of less than  $1 \times 10^{-6}M$ .

53-54. (canceled).